

AEC Visioning Workshop Survey Results – Open-Ended Questions

1. How can the Alliant Energy Center be a good neighbor?

Community Engagement

- Contribute access to the surrounding Bram and Capital View neighborhoods. Listen to neighborhood input and implement. Let's continue to have these engaging processes that are genuine on the decision.
- Meet with neighbors to discuss solutions to problems/compromises.
- Be responsive to neighbors' complaints.
- Communicate with neighbors and park user about events going-on and with adequate notice.

Noise & Light Pollution

- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Reduce noise pollution. Improve accessibility for ALL.
- Control all NOISE!!
- Transition to a low-noise facility. Change from backup warning beeping to camera and/or sensors that will be even safer. NO use of P.A. system for events. No noise before 7am or after 7pm.
- Limit light and noise pollution escaping into adjoining neighborhoods. Maintain substantial buffers between AEC and neighborhoods. Provide effective stormwater management. Do not convert existing greenspace into parking

Aesthetics

- Create a more aesthetically pleasing environment.
- Minimize usage of Quann Park, neighborhood streets and bike paths. Playground equipment in Lynchburg Park.

Stormwater Management

- Control storm run-off.
- Keep the new retention basin (recently built) for stormwater.

Equity & Access

- Keep all areas accessible, public (as much as reasonable), allow traffic through
- By providing better access for the disabled that use wheelchairs -/ walker redo some of the ground to accommodate the wheelchairs, etc.
- Encourage development of businesses missing in the area e.g. restaurants and coffee.
- By not having more concerts /amplified noise outside. Provide services/amenities that neighbors need (grocery stores).
- Building more buildings for various activities.
- Use its financial impact to improve the standard of living of people living in the most economically underserved neighborhoods (e.g. Bram's Addition) by providing the structures to encourage business establishments that will offer meaningful employment
- Emphasize services/attractions that serve and attracts BOTH the visitor and surrounding neighbors. Free low cost attractions, especially these could include: playground, running trails

with fitness center (A' la warmer parks recreation facility); ice skating and paddle boats on lagoons; water parks; restaurants with hotels. Beer garden! Food carts; free concerts in a; picnic pavilion and path-lined areas clearly open to the public.

General Comments

- We live off Rimrock and are not bothered at all
- Maintain development within the scope of a mid-sized city and space limits/traffic bottlenecks of the city.
- By becoming part of the neighborhoods instead of being effectively walled off from the surrounding area, and providing little incentive for people in the neighborhood to go there.
- By offering live entertainment that's popular stars, blues artists, gospel/artists and jazz artists.
- Embrace Southside multicultural pride.

2. What is your BIG IDEA for the Alliant Energy Center and surrounding area?

Equity & Access

- A major infrastructure that would create good affordable jobs for families. Redevelopment can be rewarding for some people and a disaster for others. I truly believe the inclusive process for AEC will be rewarding because of the community engagement process.
- Reinforce the Bram access
- Put a pedestrian/bike access across the beltline a develop a pedestrian corridor through the industrial area with some shopping.
- Make ground more ADA.

Destination District

- Need a combination Madison Visitor Center and Madison Area History Museum.
- Focus on making it a vibrant, year-round use space for people of all backgrounds and abilities. This means housing and transit access, services, parks and playgrounds matter than being a space that people drive to and then drive away from.
- More interesting place to be not just attend – more eating options, more things to do.
- Increased greenspace park.
- Flea/food market – a little bit of everything. Street food, spices, antiques, art, jewelry. Like Philly Public Market but not just food.
- A museum displaying the history of South Madison
- A nice waterfall for kids to play in the water with 2-3 benches for parents to sit and watch them.
- Have a candy store.
- Would like to see a destination venue of some sort. Sadly, the coliseum doesn't quite work for that very well. A modern arena/concert venue makes sense to add exposition space.
- Re-integrate campus with surrounding urban fabric. This would involve new residential uses (which may fight with noise issues).
- A museum.
- Hotels have water parks that the community could use. Tourists would like it and the city could use it as well.

- Verified hotel space across entire stretch of East side John Nolen with pedestrian bridge to food/shops filling area between Rimrock John Nolen, and beltline.
- Gathering place that attracts residents from across the city for cultural enrichment instead of a BIG SCALE CONVENTION CENTER BEHEMOTH.

General Comments

- Good question but I don't have an answer!
- Stop growing!
- Be a good neighbor not a disruptor.
- Rebuild the outdated coliseum.

3. Please feel free to write any additional comments, ideas, or concerns you may have regarding the Alliant Energy Center.

Noise & Light Pollution

- Please do not create a permanent outdoor music/entertainment stage. The surrounding neighborhoods do not want loud music all summer long.
- Put any new music/entertainment venue inside a sound proof building.
- The more AEC expands the more negative impact it has on the resident's quality of life. Restrict uses to county land.
- I think there are very few neighborhoods anywhere in the world that would want to be next to a facility that is loud, has a huge parking lot, is full of tourists.
- Limit the number and size of amplified events allowed each season. Loud events should not be allowed to affect quality of life for nearby residential areas. Strict noise limits must be set and enforced for the Willow Island area as well as the entire AEC campus.
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- Better control of noise emanating from area during amplified events. Limit the number of large performance stages that can be used at any event to one large stage. Allow only one amplified performance to occur at any time. Two or more bands playing at one time is annoying even to event participants and is just terrible noise to the residential neighbors surrounding the AEC campus.
- Do not allow construction of a permanent stage or outdoor amphitheater in this location due to the close proximity of residential neighborhoods. This is not a suitable location to try to emulate Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds.

Destination District

- It seems like it would be good to have amenities that locals and tourists would both use.
- The AEC needs to be redeveloped keeping in mind the entire space that it impacts (and those impacts could be positive!) Rather than being developed in isolation. The entire area needs a master plan. Not just the AEC.
- Book a national level dog show
 - Make it big enough that breed groups will want to have their specialty here
 - Kennel clubs often do the planning.
 - Could have separate area for public demos

- Dock jumping
 - Basic conformation
 - Agility
- Pavilion for shops.
- Bike racks
- Playground for the kids!
- Building various buildings for events for all people and keep the prices so that citizens can afford to go.
- Make public use of the lagoons for ice skating, paddle boats, kayaks, even fishing (the water would first need to be filtered)
- Add a public playground and/or splash park (like at Goodman Community Center); maybe eventually a permanent public recreational facility like at Warner Park
- Add a jogging track with par course stations
- I'd love for it to be the corridor that welcomes visitors to Madison.
- I'd like to see the AEC become part of an entertainment and leisure corridor connecting downtown to the AEC grounds. I'd love to see restaurants, general stores, and entertainment in and around the AEC grounds
- While I don't want to always hear the thump thump of Brat Fest, I'd love it for the AEC grounds to be updated so it can be used and enjoyed by country and the entire state
- Design and build an additional large multi-story discovery complex along John Nolen Drive that is linked to the proposed Madison Discovery Center with an enclosed overpass and to the Coliseum and adjacent parking areas with enclosed walkways. This new building would be the Wisconsin Discovery Center, a new interactive multi-function museum and exhibition space containing both permanent and traveling exhibits.
 - Incorporate solar and wind power in mechanical interface of this new building.
 - Incorporate a visible rain water collection system with kinetic sculptures at outflows to adjacent wetlands.

Community Engagement

- Thanks for these visioning sessions please take them to heart. Please don't ignore or check off as done. Input is important – have more visioning as the design evolves.

Equity & Access

- The price to come and park is too expensive, in any other states coliseum have something going on 7 days a week generating money.
- Add sidewalks and signed, improved bike paths and access (esp. from downtown) to invite both neighbors and visitors in; also, create clear, safe bike and pedestrian paths within the AEC complex.
- Re-open Bram's Street access to pedestrians and bikes.
- I believe the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association represents a vocal and aging minority of the community. Please take their NIMBY concerns with a grain of salt. They mean well, but they do not represent the majority of the community. The people who are active in the NA, are the people who have the available time to be active in the NA, and most of us are too busy with our lives to duke it out in neighborhood politics, but would welcome updates to the aging coliseum and a more vibrant AEC.

Connections

- Traffic flow out after events has historically been abysmal. Some events have used traffic cops to help but not usually.
- I am concerned about traffic bottlenecks if the Alliant Energy Center becomes overdeveloped. It would be problematic if the area become a dead industrial zone, especially with the stigma surrounding the neighborhood as an unfriendly place.
- Add a visible B-Cycle station and improve bike parking (there's a station at the Sheraton, but not within the AEC complex)
- Then there could be parks, trails, and possibly even a public transportation system like a street car connecting it to downtown.
- Keep present at grade rail crossing at John Nolen/Olin Avenue intersection.
 - Construct rail station on existing rail corridor just north of Sheridan Hotel. A ped/bike bridge connects the rail station with the Alliant Energy Center across John Nolen Drive. The AEC grounds along John Nolen Drive should become the location for a large multi-use building that could contain a Wisconsin Discovery Center Museum, Madison area visitor center, restaurants, retail, and offices. It would be connected with two level ped/bike bridge over John Nolen Drive to a light rail/commuter rail station on the east side of John Nolen drive just north of the Sheridan Hotel. The lower level of the ped/bike bridge would be enclosed and for pedestrian use only. The upper level would be an open ped/bike crossing over John Nolen Drive that would go over the rail station and ramp down to connect to the Capitol City Trail on the west side of the rail corridor. The Capitol City Trail would be relocated to travel along the west side of the rail corridor behind the Sheridan Hotel and other commercial properties. This would provide a much more esthetically pleasing ped/bike trail that would have nice views of Turville Bay and eliminate the troublesome intersection crossing at John Nolen Drive and Rimrock Road.
- Create a grade separated rail crossing at John Nolen/Olin Avenue intersection.
 - Slightly lower the railroad track elevation and raise John Nolen Drive to go over the existing rail corridor. Olin Avenue would also be raised to meet JND at this intersection. Create a spur off the existing railroad track that turns onto the Alliant Energy Center complex between the front parking area and John Nolen Drive and continues to turn to the west passing the AEC electronic sign and then running along the north side of the main entrance road through the center of the AEC complex and then turning to the north to connect with the other railroad corridor. This new rail connection would run level at an elevation just above the water table through most of the AEC grounds until it starts turning north at the west side of the AEC complex. It will then gradually gain elevation to meet the other rail corridor elevation. The front parking area would become a multi-level parking area and the main entrance road would be reconstructed to ramp up further east than it currently does so the automobile traffic can pass over the new rail corridor. At numerous locations there would be land bridges connecting both sides of the AEC complex over the new rail corridor. A multi-modal rail station would be constructed on the AEC complex at the most appropriate location along this new rail corridor depending on the configuration and location of the proposed new structures on the AEC complex.

- This concept would eliminate the conflicts associated with the railroad corridor crossing through this busy highway intersection. There are times when a long freight train backs up north bound traffic onto the beltline creating a dangerous situation that often results in multiple rear end collisions. Should the rail corridor become a light rail/commuter corridor, a grade separated crossing would also be beneficial here.

Quann Park

- Damage done to Quann has been going on for years. Putting up closure signs 12 hours in advance happens 1-2 times each year and is unacceptable. 24-hour minimum. And make sure adequate staff is provided to get debris picked up and turf damage repaired in a timely manner.
- Renew a neighborhood park with shelter (one already exists in the SW corner of AEC site – it's just not maintained or inviting; not even clear that it's public)
- Repair the damage to Quann Park.
- Vastly improve communication to dog park users and neighborhoods.
- Landscape park perimeter with tree plantings and prairie plantings.
- Transform portions of the park with prairie plantings.
- Strictly limit how many times a year the dog park can be closed for overflow use by the Alliant Energy Center. Each year the dog park is being closed more often than in past years due to overflow use by AEC. An acceptable upper limit of this use of Quann park by AEC must be established and enforced.

General Comments

- My biggest concern is that public funds are going to be wasted chasing convention dollar that will never come. There is a nationwide glut of convention space in all kinds of excellent locations...we do not need to contribute to this.
- The reports from Hammes and Hundes need to be looked at with a critical eye. The goal of these consultants is to say that it is a good idea to build convention and entertaining areas. The data is weak at best to support quick development.
- To be honest, assurances from the AEC have proven to be misguided. There are some mistrusts in the neighborhood of the AEC.
- As the site is currently structured it provides no economic benefit to the Bram's Addition neighborhood. Without engineering attractions to make access from Parke...
- Need to verify the park/convention space as one space.
- Resurface with permeable materials those surface parking areas that are likely to be retained in the future, such as in front of the Expo Center (to gain greener appearance and better storm water management). Plant more tree islands within these areas.
- Create a master plan for this complex that utilizes the property better and ties it with the proposed Madison Discovery Center and rail station.
- Replace existing animal barns with larger multi-function structures.